The Park Avenue Synagogue

Bulletin

APRIL 6, 1949 Nisan 7, 1949

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Sabbath Eve . . . . . Friday, April 8th, 8:30 p.m.
United Order of True Sisters *Sabbath*
Rabbi Milton Steinberg will preach

Sabbath Morning . . . . . Saturday, April 9th, 10:30 a.m.
Rabbi Morris Kertzer will preach

PASSOVER SCHEDULE

First Evening . . . . . Wednesday, April 13th, 6:00 p.m.
First Morning . . . . . Thursday, April 14th, 9:30 a.m.
Rabbi Milton Steinberg will preach

Second Evening . . . . . Thursday, April 14th, 6:00 p.m.
Second Morning . . . . . Friday, April 15th, 9:30 a.m.
Rabbi Morris Kertzer will preach

Sabbath Eve . . . . . Friday, April 15th, 8:00 p.m.
Sabbath Morning . . . . . Saturday, April 16th, 10:00 a.m.
Rabbi Milton Steinberg will preach

Seventh Evening . . . . . Tuesday, April 19th, 6:00 p.m.
Seventh Morning . . . . . Wednesday, April 20th, 9:30 a.m.
Rabbi Morris Kertzer will preach

Eighth Evening . . . . . Wednesday, April 20th, 6:00 p.m.
Eighth Morning . . . . . Thursday, April 21st, 9:30 a.m.
Rabbi Milton Steinberg will preach

Memorial Services will be held at Approximately 11 a.m.
Junior Congregation Services at 10:30 a.m.

Musical portion of Services under the direction of Cantor Putterman, assisted by choir. Mr. Isidor Geller at the organ.

If You Wish Any Member Of Your Family Memorialized, Please Return The Enclosed Card to the Synagogue Office.

Friday Service Honors True Sisters Order

The Friday evening Service, on April 8th, will be devoted to the United Order of True Sisters upon the occasion of their Annual *Sabbath* service.

The United Order of True Sisters, the first American Jewish women's group to be organized in our country, is one of the leading philanthropic, cultural and fraternal organizations. It was formed about one hundred years ago.

It is the custom of the United Order of True Sisters to hold its Annual *Sabbath* service in a different synagogue each year. As many of the Sisterhood's members are also members of the UOTS, the Sisterhood will be the host organization on this occasion. Mrs. Louis Michel, National Vice President, will be the speaker for the UOTS and Rabbi Steinberg will deliver the sermon of the evening.

An *Oneg Shabbat* will follow with Rabbi Kertzer and Cantor Putterman participating. Mrs. Milton Heller is Chairman of the Sisterhood committee which will provide refreshments. All members of the Synagogue are cordially invited to attend and welcome the UOTS to the Park Avenue Synagogue.

Men's Club to Hear Rabbi Steinberg, Apr. 12

Rabbi Milton Steinberg will be the guest speaker at the regular monthly meeting of the Men's Club on Tuesday evening, April 12th at 8:15 p.m. in the Vestry.

Rabbi Steinberg will speak on the revealing and personal subject of "On Being a Rabbi." He will discuss many intimate impressions, what made him choose the Rabbinate and some of his trials and tribulations.

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Religious School Holds Model *Seder*

The Religious School will hold its annual Model *Seder* on Sunday morning, April 10th. The services will be conducted by Rabbi Kertzer with the assistance of the children of the school. Portions of the *Haggadah* are to be read in both Hebrew and English with the traditional four questions chanted by one of the youngest. The Passover songs will be joined in by all, and scenes of the Passover story will be dramatized.

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Regular Sermons On Sabbath Morning

The pulpit wishes to announce that a sermon will be delivered in the future on *Sabbath* mornings regardless of whether a *Bar Mitzvah* also takes place. It has been the practice of recent years to confine the spoken message, on the occasion of *Bar Mitzvahs*, to the address to the boy. The charge to the *Bar Mitzvah* will of course be continued, but a sermon will also always be preached. So worshipers are assured that they will receive instruction directed to them each time they attend formal *Sabbath* services.

THE PARK AVENUE SYNAGOGUE BULLETIN
is published bi-weekly from September to June by
THE PARK AVENUE SYNAGOGUE
50 East 87th Street, New York 28, N. Y.
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VOL. 3 No. 11

From The Desk of Rabbi Steinberg

A wise Greek said once, long ago, that the appearance of a single swallow does not mean that spring is at hand. By the same token, the fact that American Jewry has of late begun to produce a few, a very few, theologians does not necessarily augur a rebirth of the Jewish religion. But it is one of the happiest signs to appear in our skies in many a day. And what is most auspicious about it is that these newly arisen philosophers of religion are more often than not laymen rather than rabbis.

For Jewry in America has been guilty of two sins against Jewish doctrine, the sin of neglect and the sin of professionalization. It has either ignored altogether the theoretical issues of the faith it professes or handed them over to the rabbinate, as though the questions of belief and denial, of God and man were not every soul's business.

The subordination of theology among American Jews is readily accounted for. Some of them have been so distracted by the practical problems of Jewish survival as to have no mind or heart for anything else. Of those who have managed to preserve a sensibility to Jewish spirituality some in turn have been diverted from religion by Jewish culture. To only a handful then of modern Jews is religion the chief theme of their Jewish preoccupation. And even these have in general been busier with issues of observance than of doctrine and, in the case of the scholars among them, with history, with what Jews believed in the past rather than what they can and must believe today.

No Service

The Congregation will please note that there is no late Friday night service on April 15th due to the Passover Holiday.

Our German brethren, whose Jewishness we American Jews criticize so freely, outdid ours in this respect as in so many others. Witness such figures as Hormann Cohen, Franz Rosenzweig and Martin Buber.

And now, partly under their influence, partly under that of the newer Christian theology, but mostly in response to inner needs, personal and communal, some Jews are beginning to think seriously and sustainedly concerning the classic core themes of the Jewish tradition: God, His existence and attributes, revelation, good and evil, man's nature and salvation.

As I have already indicated, I like the fact that laymen are in the forefront of this development. First because now that they have taken the lead the rabbis will be shamed into following. But basically because at no time until our generation was Judaism in any of its phases the exclusive concern of any professional caste. Always, Torah, the whole Torah, was the "inheritance of the congregation of Jacob", of every member of it. Any token of a return to that desirable state of affairs is to be welcomed, especially on so vital a score as Jewish doctrine.

One swallow, even a flight of swallows, does not, as I said before, make a spring. But it is an omen which may justifiably be taken as hopeful.

The problem of the religious future of our children is fully as grave as Rabbi Kertzer asserted in his column in the preceding issue of our BULLETIN. He is altogether correct when he states that the child who fails to attend Junior Congregation cannot possibly acquire either the habit or the know-how of Jewish worship, for want of which he is almost certain as an adult to be alienated from the Synagogue.

I regret, however, that Rabbi Kertzer omitted to refer to the new and very hopeful departure adopted by our School Board which gives promise of correcting the evil. The Board has decided that, beginning with next fall, all the other children of our religious schools will attend classes on Saturday rather than Sunday mornings and will have in lieu of an assembly a full *Sabbath Service* conducted by themselves.

By this device, we are assured of a Junior Congregation consisting of more than a handful. More important, we shall know of every *Bar* and *Bas Mitzvah* in the future that by very virtue of attendance in our school they have had at least four years experience in conducting and participating in *Sabbath* worship.

The problem is grave, but, both Rabbi Kertzer and I are happy to say, it is not going by default.

—MILTON STEINBERG

Youth Service Features Eternal Light Records

Those who now attend Junior Congregation are enjoying phonograph records, musical and radio broadcasts as an additional part of the service. Movies may soon be shown in the near future. And this is all in keeping with the *Sabbath* spirit.

On Saturday, April 9th, records of the Eternal Light broadcast of "Emma Lazarus" will be heard and on Thursday, April 14th, a special Passover service will be held at 10:30 a.m. to which all are invited. At which time at the end of the service, the Eternal Light's broadcast record of "Tabernacle in Duke's Palace" will be played.

Better Services Planned

A committee is now working on the use of a revised prayer book. Better services on the whole may be expected as they are being even more carefully planned and a better balance between Hebrew and English is being worked out. Grape juice and cake are served after the services, which start at 10:30 in the vestry.

The Junior Congregation is unquestionably an important factor in the education of Jewish children as the experience of synagogue going is most necessary in order to get a well-rounded picture of Judaism. See that your child attends Junior Congregation regularly.

Sisterhood Meeting Features Symposium

The Sisterhood is planning a most interesting program for its meeting on Tuesday, April 19th. A special panel discussion on "What Shall We Women Do With Our Leisure?" will be presented. Miss Margaret Arlen, well-known CBS commentator, will serve as moderator. The panel members will be ladies of the Sisterhood. Mrs. Clara Ostriker will discuss dramatics; Mrs. Alma Kaplan, writing; Mrs. Frances Peiper, music; Mrs. Edith Diamond, art; Mrs. Dorothy Gellert, philanthropy; and Mrs. Frances Gorham, floral arrangements. Each speaker will be given approximately ten minutes. The entire program is under the co-chairmanship of Mrs. Phyllis Siegel and Mrs. Doris Rome. The ladies of the Congregation and their friends are cordially invited to attend what promises to be a very stimulating afternoon.

Annual Party for Blind

The Sisterhood's Annual Party for the Blind will be held on Tuesday, April 26th, at the Home for the Jewish Blind in Yonkers. Mrs. Milton Sivek, who is in charge of the arrangements, announced that the group will meet at the New York Guild for the Jewish Blind, 1880 Broadway, After a tour of the building and a luncheon, the group will proceed to the Home. A very pleasant program of entertainment has been planned for the old folks. Mr. William Horne, who made such a hit last year, will perform again this year. The ladies of the Sisterhood will act as hostesses and serve refreshments. It is hoped that a large group of Sisterhood members will attend.

Model Seder

(*Continued from Page* 1)

The liberation of the Jewish people will be the theme of the decorations with each class table representing different phases.

Matzohs are being served through the generous efforts of Mr. Bernard Prensky. Mrs. George Heyman and Mrs. Heller will head a committee of parents who will provide and serve the eggs and wine at the *Seder* service.

Federation Chairman Thanks Congregants

The Federation Campaign has come to a formal close but actually it will not be over until every pledge has been fulfilled and until every possibility for a contribution has been investigated.

Mrs. Ezra Cohen, the P.A. Synagogue chairman for Federation is very grateful for the excellent cooperation she received—to Rabbi Steinberg for his Federation Editorial in the BULLETIN which was so appealing that it was reprinted in the Federation News, a paper widely distributed to all Federation members—to the publicity given from the pulpit on several occasions by Rabbi Kertzer—to the exceptional generosity of the BULLETIN Staff in granting space for the Federation appeal and by its constant plugging reminding our women to respond—and last but most important of all to the two dozen tireless workers who by writing, telephoning, pleading and nagging brought about such excellent results, refusing to take "No" for an answer.

An official acknowledgment will eventually be sent out to each contributor from the main office. However, the committee wishes to thank unofficially each woman who helped make the campaign a success by her donation.

Bar Mitzvah

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Harold A. Merber on the *Bar Mitzvah* of their son, Ivan, which will take place on April 9.

Anniversaries

The Congregation extends its felicitations to Mr. and Mrs. David Furcheimer who will celebrate their fiftieth wedding anniversary on April 16th; and to Mr. and and Mrs. Murray Schwarz who will mark their thirtieth anniversary on April 10th.

Deaths

We offer sincere condolences to Mr. Julian Jacobs on the loss of his mother, Mrs. Rose Jacobs; to Mrs. Milton N. Grass on the loss of her brother, Mr. Samuel Michelman; and to Mrs. Milton Selig on the death of her brother, Mr. Mac Feinson; and to the family of Dr. Milton Bodenheimer on his sudden loss; and to Mrs. Bernard Prensky on the loss of her brother, Mr. Joseph Manischewitz.

Junior League Dance For Benefit of U.J.A.

The Annual Cocktail Dance of the Junior League takes place this year on Sunday afternoon, April 10th from 2 to 5:30 p.m. in the Grand Ballroom of the Hotel Pierre, Fifth Avenue and 61st Street. This gala affair, which is the climax of the social season of the Junior League, is under the co-chairmanship of the Misses Ethel Drachsler and Judy Strasburger and Mr. Lester Burger; and once again the proceeds are going to the United Jewish Appeal.

Last year the Junior League was able to raise $1,500.00 to contribute to the Junior Division of the UJA and needless to say hopes to raise more this year. The admission is $2.50 per person, including tax, and tickets may be procured by writing to Miss Drachsler, 325 East 80th Street, New York 28, N. Y. Jeno Bartal and his orchestra will again provide the music. All young people of the Congregation and their friends should attend this affair, for here is a chance not only to have a good time, but also to help a very worthy cause.

In conjunction with the dance a television set, Bulova watch, radio and a weekend for 2 at the Hotel Concord will be given away by the Junior League to some lucky persons. Most young people of the Synagogue have received letters informing them how to obtain these. We are sure that all the young congregants will want to participate in this aspect of the affair. Send your responses immediately to Miss Lucille Duke, 110 West 96th Street, New York 25, N. Y., if you have not already done so; or contact her for additional information.

Rabbi Kertzer Telecasts

Rabbi Kertzer will appear on a special television broadcast on Friday, April 8th, at 1:45 P.M. over station WABD, channel 5. He will discuss the message and the symbols of Passover.

Men's Club

(*Continued from Page* 1)

The discussion will be followed by refreshments and a social hour. The Men's Club invites all male congregants who have not as yet joined the Club to attend this meeting.

Parents' Association Game Night, Apr. 24th

The Parents' Association is looking forward with enthusiasm to its annual social event, which will be held on Sunday evening, April 24th, in the Vestry of the Synagogue.

The Committee for "Night of Games", under the leadership of Mrs. Saul Granetts, is planning to provide all the elements of a successful party, including a variety of novelty games, for those who do not play cards or Mah Jongg. There will be valuable door prizes and highly tempting refreshments.

Those who have attended this annual function in the past, have expressed their appreciation of this opportunity for a purely social get-to-gether with other parents.

Tickets have been sent through the mail to all parents. Please mail your checks to Mrs. Harry Zucker, 22 East 88th Street, New York, 28, N. Y., and please feel free to request additional tickets for your friends. All who come will be warmly welcomed and assured of a thoroughly enjoyable evening.

Students Named To Honor Roll

The completion of the second third of the School year at *Purim* resulted in the following students being placed on the Honor Roll of our Hebrew School:

Class IA: Alice Helpern and Eleanor Foa.

Class IB: Paul Bienstock and Stanley Nemerov.

Class II: Hannah Cohen, Judith Godwin and Rita Schoenbaum.

Class III: Susan Helpern, Barton Hoexter and Reginald Lorant.

Class IV: Ruth Kertzer and Jonathan Greenwald.

Class V-VI: Sylvia Schneider, Robert Rifkind and Jack Kaplan.

Please Be Seated

The Ushering Committee of the Synagogue requests that members of the Congregation occupy the front rows of the auditorium whenever possible, so that the last pews will remain for those who arrive during the Services.

Mrs. Edelman Donates Second *Paroches*

The Congregation every year is the recipient of gifts which have been given as a thansgiving offering or as a memorial for the adornment of the Synagogue or for use in the liturgy.

On the last day of Passover at the Memorial Services the second of the *Paroches*, designed by Mrs. Anna Edelman will be dedicated. As the Ark doors are opened, the curtain, draped behind, will be revealed truly an inspiration to all the congregants.

During this past year, Mrs. Anna Edelman gave the Synagogue a hand embroidered curtain for the Ark, known traditionally as a *Paroches*. This was given in tribute to her late husband, Morris Edelman, who had been one of the Vice - Presidents during his long years of active association with the Park Avenue Synagogue. Once more the Synagogue is privileged to receive the second of these lovely curtains. Mrs. Edelman, of whose artistry with the needle the congregation has already had evidence by the first curtain and also by our embroidered pulpit cloths, derived the inspiration for her most handsome pieces from a Renaissance Jewish *Paroches*, thereupon using her own interpretation.

Adult Ed. Committee Appraises Year Program

Harold Starkman, Chairman of the Committee on Adult Education, recently reported on the status of the Home Study Courses conducted under the auspices of the Commitee. The attendance at the Home Study Courses has been excellent. However, an appraisal committee has been appointed to analyze the attendance and progress of these courses and to evaluate the desirability of continuing these courses. Congregants are urged to send in any suggestions to Mr. Starkman for next year's courses so as to be studied by the Committee.

Remember Seminary

Congregants are strongly urged not to forget to support the present joint Jewish Theological Seminary — United Synagogue of America campaign now under way.

Keren Ami Council Makes Contributions

Keren Ami in the Religious School enables our children to contribute towards Jewish funds in a purposeful and educative manner. Each week the children bring their contributions to school and spend a short period discussing their responsibility to the Jewish community at home and abroad; the needs of various funds and agencies; and the democratic process of electing delegates to a *Keren Ami* Council which distributes the collected sums among various agencies.

At a recent meeting the student-elected *Keren Ami* Council, headed by Karen Kudin of Confirmation I, voted to allocate $200 among 12 organizations including, "Kits for Israel", Federation of Jewish Philanthropies, National Jewish Hospital at Denver and Friends of Hebrew University.

Thus, the school helps to train the children for intelligent giving and for active participation in Jewish community life.

Mark Your Calendar

April 12—Men's Club—8:30—Vestry—Rabbi Steinberg Speaker.

April 19—Sisterhood meeting—1:30—Vestry—Panel discussion "What Does the Average Woman Do With Her Leisure Time?"

April 24—Parents' Association—8:30—Vestry—Annual Social—Game Night.

April 26—Sisterhood Annual Party for the Blind.

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